



HISTORY

Born in Switzerland, Albert Zeller grew up farming and learning the art of cheese-making. He came to the U.S. in 1959 and settled in Walnut, IL. making cheese. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, developing ideas that proved useful once he returned to civilian life.

In 1964 as a co-owner/manager, Gino's Pizza became a corporation with two employees, Albert helped Gino produce 200 pizzas a day to start. Within 15 months, those figures increased to 20 employees and 5,000 pizzas daily.

In 1966 he purchased Lardano's Italian Restaurant on Main Street in Peoria. He changed to Avanti's, which means 'forward' in Italian. Albert married his late wife Edith Hollenstein, a native of Switzerland, in 1968.

In 1971, Albert partnered with his brother Guido and opened Avanti's in Normal, IL. Guido purchased the business from Albert later. It is now owned and operated by Guido's two sons, Richard and Marcus. Sadly, Guido passed away in 2002.

Expanding on that solid foundation, Albert bought land on Rockwood and built a restaurant that opened in 1979. This has become Avanti's flagship location.

In 1985, Albert opened a fourth restaurant in East Peoria. In 1989, Albert purchased, remodeled and opened Avanti's across the street from the original Main Street location. The original Avanti's was demolished to make room for expansion of Main and University.

Albert built another Avanti's on North Knoxville Avenue in 2008. In 2009, Avanti's opened a restaurant on Kelly Avenue in Pekin, IL.

Avanti's Ristorante now has five restaurants in Peoria, East Peoria and Pekin. We employ around 350 people. In November of 2018 Stefan purchased the company from his father, Albert. He will continue the legacy that Albert built. Albert is still in the Peoria area and is a great ambassador for the brand. 

APPETIZERS

CHEESEBALLS

Crispy breaded cheddar cheese nuggets, served with ranch dressing. 5.59

FRIED RAVIOLI

Breaded beef ravioli served with Avanti's own marinara sauce. 5.19

CHICKEN TENDERS

Tender strips of breaded chicken breast served with ranch dressing. 8.49

MOZZARELLA STICKS

Italian seasoned, breaded cheese sticks served with our own pizza sauce. 7.49, small 4.79

»» SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP ««



Creamy spinach, tender artichokes and melted cheeses with toast points made from our famous bread. 5.99

MUSHROOMS

Breaded whole button mushrooms, crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside, served with ranch dressing. 5.19

Bruschetta >>

Avanti's famous bread topped with tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, basil and parmesan. 5.99, half 3.29



GARLIC BREAD

Our famous garlic bread is toasted to a delicious golden brown. 1.99

GARLIC BREAD WITH MOZZARELLA

Our famous garlic bread toasted to a delicious golden brown with melted mozzarella cheese. 3.49

CHICKEN WINGS

Chicken wings tossed in your choice of sauce.
1 lb. - 9.49 | 2 lb. - 18.49 | 5 lb. - 44.99



Mild
Hot
BBQ

BONELESS WINGS

Tender chicken breast, breaded lightly and fried to a delicious golden brown, tossed in your choice of sauce. 6.99

- New! -
Kaboom

Garlic Parmesan
Sweet & Spicy Chili



SOUPS AND SALADS

Add grilled or fried chicken for 3.29 or seafood blend for 3.29

REGULAR SIDE SALAD

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage. 2.29

GARDEN SALAD

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage topped with mushrooms, tomatoes, green peppers, onion, black olives and shredded mozzarella cheese. 5.49, mini 3.59

CHEF'S SALAD

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage topped with lean ham, salami, turkey, shredded cheddar and boiled egg. 6.29

New! ITALIAN CHEF SALAD

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage topped with salami, pepperoni, ham, pepper rings, black olives, red onion, tomato and mozzarella cheese 6.99

CAESAR SALAD

Crisp romaine lettuce topped with grated parmesan cheese and Caesar dressing. Served with garlic toast points. 5.49

SEAFOOD SALAD

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage topped with shrimp, crabmeat, tomatoes and a lemon wedge topped with paprika. 7.99

PASTA SALAD

Rotini pasta mixed with black olives, red onion and our special vinaigrette dressing, topped with shredded cheddar. 3.99

Chicken Chef Salad

Fresh iceberg and romaine lettuce mixed with carrots and red cabbage topped with sliced grilled or fried chicken with cheddar cheese, tomatoes and boiled egg. 7.99



SOUP OF THE DAY

Ask about our featured soup!
cup 2.99 | bowl 3.99

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

cup 2.99 | bowl 3.99

CHILI (SEASONAL)

cup 2.99 | bowl 3.99
+ Cheddar Cheese & Onions 50¢

CHEESE SOUP

cup 3.29 | bowl 4.69

Dressings

House Italian - French
Blue Cheese - Ranch - Caesar
1000 Island - Honey Mustard
Spices & Herbs Vinaigrette
Raspberry Vinaigrette
Additional Dressings: small 35¢, large 65¢

 Indicates Vegetarian

ENTRÉES

All dinners are served with Avanti's freshly baked bread and a crisp salad with your choice of dressing, or substitute cup of soup or cottage cheese for 99¢

BAKED CHICKEN

Lightly breaded and oven baked chicken breast topped with mozzarella cheese and served with your choice of broccoli or Italian vegetables. 8.99

CHICKEN TENDERS

Tender and juicy hand breaded white meat tenders served with your choice of French fries or spaghetti with your choice of sauce. 8.99

SAUSAGE & PEPPERS

Sautéed Italian sausage, red onions, red and green bell peppers tossed in extra virgin olive oil, penne pasta and covered in marinara. 8.99



»» OVEN BAKED COD ««

Oven-baked cod fillet served with your choice of Italian vegetables, linguini or spaghetti with choice of sauce.
2 pc - 12.99 | 1 pc - 8.49

CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA

We recommend no more than seven toppings per pizza for the best quality and taste.
» 10" Gluten Free crust available for an additional 4.00

	6"	10"	12"	16"
CHEESE	2.90	6.15	9.00	13.00
Each Additional Topping	.85	.95	1.25	1.75

1 CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE »

Pizza Sauce	Alfredo	Kaboom	Ranch
Marinara	Garlic Butter	BBQ	

2 CHOOSE YOUR VEGGIES »

Broccoli	Mushroom	Pineapple
Bruschetta Mix	Black Olives	Roasted Peppers
Chopped Garlic	Green Olives	Tomato
Green Peppers	Onions	Pickle
Jalapeño	Pepper Rings	

3 CHOOSE YOUR MEAT »

Bacon	Pepperoni
Capicola	Salami, sliced or crumbled
Grilled Chicken	Sausage Patty
Ham, sliced or chopped	Italian Sausage
Hamburger Crumble	Seafood Blend
Meatballs	Turkey

4 CHOOSE YOUR CHEESE »

American	Mozzarella	Parmesan
Cheddar	Mozzarella Slice	Pepper Jack
		Swiss

SIDES

BREAD 1.49, half .89	SPAGHETTI 2.99
BREAD 1.99, half 1.39 with butter	BEEF RAVIOLI 3.49
LINGUINI ALFREDO 2.69	COTTAGE CHEESE 1.79
CHEESE RAVIOLI 3.69	PINEAPPLE TIDBITS 1.49
MOSTACCIOLI 2.39	POTATO CHIPS/DORITOS 1.39
FRENCH FRIES small 1.39, basket 2.59	ITALIAN VEGETABLES 1.99
SEAFOOD PASTA 6.49	STEAMED BROCCOLI 1.99
TORTELLINI 3.49	GARLIC BREAD 1.99
	APPLESAUCE 1.39



Specialty PIZZAS

AMORÉ MEAT PIZZA

Ham, salami, sausage, pepperoni and ground beef combined for the perfect pizza!
6" - 5.49 | 10" - 8.99 | 12" - 12.99 | 16" - 19.99

Avanti's Special

Ham, pepperoni, sausage, mushrooms, green peppers, salami and onions.
6" - 4.99 | 10" - 8.99 | 12" - 12.99 | 16" - 18.99

New! CHICKEN BACON RANCH PIZZA

Garlic butter, ranch, chicken, bacon and cheese
6" - 5.49 | 10" - 8.99 | 12" - 12.99 | 16" - 18.99

VEGGIE PIZZA

Fresh mushrooms, green peppers, onions, black olives, green olives and tomatoes.
6" - 4.99 | 10" - 8.99 | 12" - 12.99 | 16" - 17.99

Indicates Vegetarian

CREATE YOUR OWN PASTA

Enjoy the opportunity to be creative with your meal!
 All pasta entrées are served with Avanti's freshly baked bread and crisp salad
 with your choice of dressing, or substitute cup of soup or cottage cheese for 99¢

1 PICK YOUR PASTA »

SPAGHETTI 
LINGUINI 
MOSTACCIOLI 
ROTINI 

Large - 6.99
 Regular - 5.99



CHEESE RAVIOLI 
BEEF RAVIOLI
BEEF TORTELLINI

Large - 7.99
 Regular - 6.99

ENJOY YOUR
 PASTA DISH
 BAKED WITH
 MOZZARELLA
 ↳ ONLY 99¢ ↳

2 PICK YOUR SAUCE

MEAT SAUCE

Our signature sauce is homemade with tomatoes, ground beef and fresh chopped vegetables

ALFREDO



A rich, white cream-based butter and cheese sauce

MARINARA



Homemade meatless sauce with roma tomatoes and blend of Italian herbs

PIZZA SAUCE



Tomato, parmesan cheese and Italian herbs and spices

New! CHEESE



Mild, white cheddar

CHILI (SEASONAL)

You ask why? Why not!

3 PICK YOUR TOPPINGS »

BROCCOLI  79¢

ITALIAN VEG BLEND  79¢

ROASTED PEPPERS  99¢

MUSHROOMS  79¢

MOZZARELLA  99¢

DICED TOMATOES  79¢

SEAFOOD BLEND 3.29

MEATBALLS (3) 89¢

MEATBALLS (5) 1.29

GRILLED CHICKEN STRIPS 3.29

BREADED CHICKEN 3.29

ITALIAN SAUSAGE 1.99

HAM 1.00

BACON 1.29

BRUSCHETTA MIX  1.00
 tomato, garlic & basil

PASTA

All pasta entrées are served with Avanti's freshly baked bread and crisp salad with your choice of dressing, or substitute cup of soup or cottage cheese for 99¢

CHICKEN CACCIATORE

Oven-baked chicken breast served on a bed of tender linguini pasta topped with our homemade marinara sauce. 8.69

CHICKEN PARMESAN

Breaded breast of chicken topped with melted mozzarella cheese and served on a bed of spaghetti with marinara sauce. 9.79

LINGUINI CARBONARA

Linguini noodles tossed with sautéed bacon, mushrooms and garlic covered in our homemade alfredo sauce. 7.99
 +Chicken 3.29, +Seafood 3.29



»» LASAGNA ««

Hand-layered with our homemade meat sauce and cheeses. 7.79

PASTA PRIMAVERA »



Sautéed red and green bell peppers, red onions and Italian vegetables tossed in extra virgin olive oil and penne pasta topped with parmesan and parsley garnish. 8.99
 +Chicken 3.29, +Seafood 3.29
 +Italian Sausage 1.99

 Indicates Vegetarian

SANDWICHES

All sandwiches are made with Avanti's freshly baked bread and can be served with your choice of American, Swiss, Pepper Jack or Mozzarella cheese.

**GLUTEN FREE BREAD
FOR SANDWICHES**
1/2 LOAF - 3.00
FULL LOAF - 6.00

COLD

THE *Famous* GONDOLA®



» Avanti's famous signature sandwich made with ham, salami, cheese and lettuce. 6.99, half 3.65

»» GONDOLA® DELUXE ««

Extra meat, American and mozzarella cheese topped with sliced tomatoes and lettuce. 9.29, half 4.99



VEGETABLE GONDOLA®

Made with green peppers, mushrooms, onions, black olives, tomatoes, lettuce, American and mozzarella cheese. 7.99, half 4.29

New! THE BRISTOL

Ham, turkey, bacon, mozzarella cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise on Avanti's famous bread. 6.49

» *Make it hot!*

HAM & CHEESE 6.99, half 3.69

TURKEY & SWISS

Sliced turkey, Swiss cheese, lettuce and horseradish sauce on our famous bread. 7.59, half 4.39

TURKEY & SWISS DELUXE

Extra sliced turkey, Swiss and mozzarella cheese, lettuce, tomato and horseradish sauce on our famous bread. 9.99, half 5.69

**ADD
CHEESE SAUCE
FOR 99¢**

**ADD BACON TO ANY
SANDWICH FOR 1.29**

HOT

ITALIAN BEEF

Thinly sliced beef with your choice of one of the following: au jus, meat sauce or lettuce and tomatoes. 5.99 *With mozzarella* 6.99

ITALIAN SAUSAGE

Served with meat sauce or lettuce and tomato. 7.29 *With mozzarella* 8.29

New! ITALIAN BEEF SAUSAGE DELUXE

Italian sausage patty topped with Italian beef, green peppers, mushrooms, onions and melted mozzarella with au jus, choice of sauce or lettuce and tomato. 9.99

CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH

Deep-fried breaded chicken served with lettuce and tomato. 5.99

» *Ask for it buffalo style for 99¢*

CHICKEN PARMESAN

Breaded chicken breast deep-fried, served with marinara sauce and melted mozzarella. 6.99

New! FISH SANDWICH

Fried fish topped with cheddar cheese, lettuce and tartar sauce. 6.40

Pizza Bread

Avanti's famous bread covered with pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese. 3.49
+Your favorite pizza toppings 65¢ ea.

PIZZA BREAD DELUXE

A twist on the traditional pizza bread! Topped with pepperoni, sausage, green peppers, ham, mushrooms and onion. 6.79

ITALIAN MEATBALL SANDWICH

Now with **LARGER MEATBALLS**, covered with Avanti's own original homemade meat sauce. 3.99

Pizza Burger

Traditional meatball sandwich, now with **LARGER MEATBALLS**, melted mozzarella and our signature meat sauce. 5.49

PIZZA BURGER PRIMA

Delicious pizza burger topped with **LARGER MEATBALLS**, green peppers, mushrooms and onions. 6.40

New! SICILIAN

Toasted Italian sandwich with ham, capicola and aged hard salami topped with pepper jack cheese. Served with a side of our house dressing. 5.49

TOASTED 1/2 GONDOLA *Make it a Deluxe!*

Ham, salami and American cheese toasted on our famous bread. 3.99
» **Deluxe** 5.39 (extra meat, tomato and mozzarella cheese)

TOASTED HAM & CHEESE

Sliced, lean ham and melted American cheese on toasted bread. 3.99

TOASTED TURKEY & SWISS

Sliced turkey, Swiss cheese, lettuce and horseradish sauce on our famous bread. 4.69
» **Deluxe** 5.99 (extra meat, tomato and mozzarella cheese)

TOASTED CHEESE  American cheese. 2.99

BLT SANDWICH

Bacon, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise on Avanti's famous bread! 4.99

 Indicates Vegetarian

WRAPS

BUFFALO CHICKEN WRAP

Grilled or crispy fried chicken tossed in our buffalo sauce with mozzarella cheese, lettuce and tomatoes wrapped in a flour tortilla. Served with bleu cheese dressing. 6.49

CHICKEN, BACON & RANCH WRAP

Grilled or crispy fried chicken, bacon, romaine lettuce and tomato drizzled with ranch and rolled into a flour tortilla. 6.49

»» SPINACH CHICKEN «« CAESAR WRAP

Grilled or crispy fried chicken, American and mozzarella cheese topped with sliced tomatoes and lettuce wrapped in a spinach tortilla. 6.49

DESSERTS

Each of our delicious homemade desserts make a perfect companion to your meal or a satisfying take home treat!

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE 1.59

A deliciously moist fudge cake topped with a luxurious layer of milk chocolate fudge and finished with crushed chocolate.

RASPBERRY SWIRL CAKE 1.59

White cake with layers of delicious raspberry filling with cream cheese frosting

VANILLA CHEESECAKE 4.95

+Ask to add strawberry topping! 45¢

CINNAMON BREAD WITH ICING 2.09

CARROT CAKE 1.59

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE 1.25

Fresh baked



BEVERAGES

Free refills on large soda, iced tea, lemonade and coffee only.
Selections may vary by location.

SOFT DRINKS Small 2.19, Large 2.69

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Cherry Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Dr. Pepper, Diet Dr. Pepper, Sierra Mist, Root Beer, Raspberry Iced Tea

FRESH BREWED ICED TEA

Small 2.19, Large 2.69 Sweet or Unsweet

APPLE JUICE 1.29

COFFEE REGULAR OR DECAF 2.19

HOT TEA 1.69

MILK 2%, WHITE OR CHOCOLATE 1.79

HOT CHOCOLATE 1.89

BOTTLED WATER 2.49

LEMONADE Small 2.19, Large 2.69

 Indicates Vegetarian

DAILY Specials

MONDAY | ALL YOU CAN EAT UNFILLED PASTA

All you can eat pasta with your choice of sauce. Toppings at an additional cost. Choose your pasta: spaghetti, linguini, rotini or mostaccioli. Dine in only. 5.99

TUESDAY | ALL YOU CAN EAT UNFILLED PASTA

All you can eat pasta with your choice of sauce. Toppings at an additional cost. Choose your pasta: spaghetti, linguini, rotini or mostaccioli. Dine in only. 5.99

WEDNESDAY | CHICKEN PARMESAN DINNER

Breaded breast of chicken topped with melted mozzarella cheese, served on a bed of spaghetti with marinara sauce. 8.79

THURSDAY | LASAGNA

Hand-layered with our homemade lasagna meat sauce and Italian cheese. 6.75

FRIDAY | COD

Served with your choice of Italian vegetables, linguini noodles and choice of sauce. 2 pc - 10.99 | 1 pc- 7.49

SATURDAY | CHICKEN CACCIATORE

Oven-baked chicken breast served on a bed of tender linguini pasta topped with our homemade marinara sauce. 7.69

SUNDAY | PASTA PRIMAVERA

Sautéed red and green bell peppers, red onions and Italian vegetables tossed in extra virgin olive oil and penne pasta topped with parmesan and parsley garnish. 7.99

+Chicken 3.29, +Seafood 3.29, +Italian Sausage 1.99

Avanti's Ristorante is NOT a Gluten-Free Facility. We have guidelines and procedures in place and do our best to follow all safe prep and handling procedures for all our gluten free products. Unfortunately, cross contamination can occur in very small amounts. We ask that anyone with Celiac Disease or wheat allergens to please use caution. Due to these circumstances, we are unable to guarantee that any menu item can be completely free of allergens. Customers concerned with food allergies need to be aware of this risk. Avanti's Italian Ristorante will not assume any liability for adverse reactions to foods consumed, or items one may encounter while eating at our establishment.

\$4.95 MEAL DEAL

1/3 SANDWICH, CHIPS & A DRINK

SANDWICH CHOICES:

AVANTI'S FAMOUS GONDOLA

TURKEY & SWISS

HAM SANDWICH

HAM & CHEESE

GRILLED HAM & CHEESE

GRILLED CHEESE 

PIZZA BREAD 

PEPPERONI PIZZA BREAD

Limited Time

PIZZA & SALAD SPECIAL

PERSONAL CHEESE PIZZA & SALAD  3.95

+ Extra charge for additional toppings

New! HOT SICILIAN

Zesty toasted Italian sandwich stuffed with smoked ham, dry cured capicola ham and aged hard salami, topped with pepper jack cheese. Served on Avanti's famous bread with a side of our house sweet Italian or your choice of dressing. 5.45

Home of the Gondola®
Avanti's
Ristorante

The Illinois Department of Public Health advises that eating raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs or seafood poses a health risk to everyone, but especially to the elderly, young children under age 4, pregnant woman and other highly susceptible individuals with compromised immune systems. Thorough cooking of such animal foods reduces the risk of illness. 08/20